

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of processing diverse rich media content, comprising the steps of:

combining a plurality of diverse rich media content into a single multimedia content file for use as a first input to an authoring tool;

creating a first extensible markup language (XML) based textual specification for use as a second input to the authoring tool, wherein the first XML-based textual specification comprises a user-specified vocabulary that defines one or more of the plurality of diverse rich media content and relationships between two or more of the plurality of diverse rich media content;

combining the single multimedia content file and the first XML-based textual specification in accordance with the user-specified vocabulary and using the authoring tool to create a composed multimedia content file for execution on a multimedia player, wherein the composed multimedia content file is combined with at least one of an additional XML-based textual specification and an additional graphical edit of the plurality of diverse rich media content;

editing the plurality of diverse rich media content using a graphical authoring tool;

creating a second XML-based textual specification for the graphically edited diverse rich media content; and storing the composed multimedia content file and the second XML-based textual specification for access by one or more content creators.

2. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

editing at least one of the first and second XML-based textual specification by a user using a text editor.

3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of creating at least one of the first and second XML-based textual specification further comprises the step of:

using an XML program to create at least one of the first and second XML-based textual specification.

4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of combining the single multimedia content file and the first XML-based textual specification further comprises the step of: executing a batch processing program to combine the single multimedia content file and the first XML-based textual specification.

5. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of: transmitting the plurality of diverse rich media content as a streaming digital file.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of: downloading the composed multimedia content file for display to a user in an application.

9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of transmitting the plurality of diverse rich media content as a streaming digital file further comprises the step of: generating the streaming digital file as a sequence of frames.

10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of transmitting the plurality of diverse rich media content as a streaming digital file further comprises the step of: generating the streaming digital file as a binary file using a HotMedia format.

11. (Currently amended) An authoring system for creating text based diverse rich media, comprising:

a processor for receiving a plurality of diverse rich media;
means for assembling the plurality of diverse rich media as a combined multimedia vehicle repository (MVR) file;

means for automatically generating a first XML-based textual specification comprising a user-specified vocabulary that defines one or more of the plurality of diverse rich media and relationships between two or more of the plurality of diverse rich media;

means for combining the MVR file and the first XML-based textual specification in accordance with the user-specified vocabulary to create a composed MVR file for execution on a multimedia player, wherein the composed MVR file is combined with at least one of an additional XML-based textual specification and an additional graphical edit of the plurality of diverse rich media content[[s]];

means for editing the plurality of diverse rich media content using a graphical authoring tool;

means for creating a second XML-based textual specification for the graphically edited diverse rich media content; and

means for storing the composed MVR file and the second XML-based textual specification for access by one or more content creators.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 11 further comprising:

a batch processing program running on the processor for combining the combined MVR file and the first XML-based textual specification as an edited MVR file.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 11 further comprising:

an XML program running in the processor for translating descriptive text in combining the MVR file and the first XML-based textual specification.

14-17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture for processing diverse rich media content, comprising a machine storage medium containing one or more programs which when executed implement the steps of:

combining a plurality of diverse rich media content into a single multimedia content file as a first input to an authoring tool;

creating a first XML-based textual specification for use as a second input to the authoring tool, wherein the first XML-based textual specification comprises a user-specified vocabulary that defines one or more of the plurality of diverse rich media content and relationships between two or more of the plurality of diverse rich media content; **and**

combining the single multimedia content file and the first XML-based textual specification in accordance with the user-specified vocabulary and using the authoring tool to create a composed multimedia content file for execution on a multimedia player, wherein the composed multimedia content file is combined with at least one of an additional XML-based textual specification and an additional graphical edit of the plurality of diverse rich media content[[s]];

editing the plurality of diverse rich media content using a graphical authoring tool;

creating a second XML-based textual specification for the graphically edited diverse rich media content; and

storing the composed multimedia content file and the second XML-based textual specification for access by one or more content creators.

19. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of Claim 18 further comprising:

enabling the editing of at least one of the first and second XML-based textual specification by a user using a text editor.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of Claim 18 further comprising:

a batch processing program for combining the first XML-based textual specification and the single multimedia content file.

22. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of Claim 18 further comprising:

transmitting the plurality of diverse rich media content as a streaming digital file.

23-24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of Claim 18 further comprising:
downloading the composed multimedia content file for display to a user in an ebusiness
application.

26. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of Claim 22 further comprising:
generating the streaming digital file as a sequence of frames.

27. (Currently amended) The article of manufacture of Claim 22 further comprises:
generating the streaming digital file as a binary file in a HotMedia format[[],].

28. (Canceled).